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**Police Report Summary**

On my way I received a call that a possible suicide had taken place at WXTV TV station. On arrival, I met with Deputy Knight, who was attempting to move the victim to the emergency vehicle. I assisted them in moving the victim with Deputy Kennedy.
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**On 07-07-94 I received a call that a possible suicide had taken place at WXLTV. On arrival I met with a radio rescue, who were attempting to move the victim to emergency vehicle. I assisted them in moving victim with:**

Kennedy 3697
CASE #74-15720

Out inducing further damage to the head. I then stopped everyone from entering the building and crime scene until Detective Palmer arrived and took charge. I then talked with witness who informed us as to what happened. I observed the victim lying on right side of body, with feet facing north and head south. There was blood on right side of head and face, which indicated a wound to the head.

For further details see Detective Palmer. I proceeded to hospital where Dr. Wallace reported she was in very serious condition.

In reference to my arrival as I entered the building S. Trail Fire Dept. Rescue stated they had to move all the tables, chairs and other articles on the crime scene in order to remove the victim. Also the .38 pistol had been removed and thrown on a table. I then had Deputy Berry take charge of the weapon. After victim was removed we protected what was left of the crime scene.
Case No. 74-15-120  7-15-74

On 7-15-74 at 10:15 hr. Pvt. Kennedy and I in 211 PTU were given a call to go to TV Station WLTZ Code 1 for a shooting and possible Suicide. Upon our arrival we found the Victim living on a TV Broadcast Stage being given First aid by at least 3 persons who had a stretcher and various type of First Aid Equipment.

After determining that I could not assist the Victim I then attempted to preserve the Crime Scene from Further Damage and interviewed the Following:

Ms. Linda Taylor W/24 a/k/a "Shay"

942 La Costa Circle apt 6 phone 366-7488

Sarasota, FL

Ms. Joan Reed W/34

4055 Mac Earochen Blvd phone 922-6756

They stated that the Victim was in the Studio and that the Victim, a Miss Christine Chubbuck E/W 29 of 7132 Point of Rock Circle, was doing a News Teasecast and then announced that she was going to present a "In Attempted Suicide" at which time the Victim drew her gun and shot her self in the head on the Left Side.

This was confirmed by Mr. Lewis Baker W/139 of 2025 Cassway, phone 924-3569 who was the Engineer and who stated he observed the events on his "Television" TV Set.

Mr. Baker further advised that at the Station Request of Ms. Chubbuck the Show had been Videotaped.

(LVE OFFENSE SUPPLEMENT FORM IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED)

380 73-25

Paul Franklin 389

Signature of Investigating Officer
CASE 74-15120  7-15-74

At the request of Sgt. Palmer the video tape was re-played and during this time all non-law enforcement personnel were closed from the room and surrounding corridors at the request of the Station Manager.

As the video tape was concluded I observed a man at 8:45 pm identified as John Lam Cloud, 70 of 44-45 3rd St. wearing close shoes. He was taking photos through the window of the Eugene room.

I asked him to stop and while I was asking Sgt. them what to do about the matter the subject walked rapidly away upon, Sgt. Heri requesting that I locate him and bring him back. I did so. He had gone to the 3rd floor front office area of the station.

He attempted to give his camera to a second unit. Then I requested he not do so.

Upon my accompanying him back to the hall next to the engineering floor, Sgt. Palmer requested that he turn over his film to Sgt. Palmer. The subject would like it up in the camera and confer with camera and allowed General Pike to remove the film. The film was then given to Sgt. Palmer and the subject John Cloud was asked to remain at the Station Management did not want photography being done by anyone.

(Please use offense supplement form if additional space needed)

SSO 73-25

Paul Frankluc 389

signature of investigating officer
CASE # 74-15120  ATTEMPTED SUICIDE  7-15-74

WHEN I ARRIVED THE SCENE THE AMBULANCE
ATTENDANTS AND DEPUTY KENNEDY WERE ATTEMPTING
TO REMOVE THE VICTIM FROM THE SCENE.
ONE OF THE EMPLOYEES OF CHANNEL 40 AND
MYSELF MOVED THE DESK OFF THE STAGE
SO THE AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS COULD GET THE
STRETCHER TO THE VICTIM. AT THIS TIME
I SAW A BLUE STEEL REVOLVER LAYING ON THE
CORNER OF THE DESK. AS DEPUTY KENNEDY
WAS BUSY WITH THE AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS
I, DEPUTY BERRY, PICKED UP THE REVOLVER.
A. SMITH AND WESSON 38 CAL. AIRWEIGHT WITH
2" BARREL SERIAL # N-7192.

I OPENED THE CYLINDER AND SAW ONE SPENT
SHELL UNDER THE HAMMER. I REMOVED ALL THE
SHELLS FROM THE REVOLVER. I HELD THE REVOLVER
AND SHELLS UNTIL DEPUTY KENNEDY WAS CLEAR OF
THE VICTIM AT WHICH TIME I TURNED THE
REVOLVER AND SHELLS OVER TO HIM.

(USE OFFENSE SUPPLEMENT FORM
IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED)

330 73-25
CASE # 74-15190

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE  7-16-74

Writer was advised of a shooting at WXTV on Lawrence St. at approx 0939 hrs this date. Writer proceeded to that location and was advised by Deputy Kennedy of an attempted suicide on TV live camera. Miss Christine Chubbuck, 39 yrs old, had shot herself with a .38 cal. revolver on camera during the Suncoast Digest Program. Prior to the shooting Miss Chubbuck had requested the director and engineer to videotape the program. A note containing some facts of what she had said on TV was found on her desk in front of the camera. The victim had already been removed from the scene upon the writer's arrival. Several articles such as a weapon were on the desk at the cat behind while on camera were moved from the original position by attendants from the St. Paul Fire Dept.

This writer viewed the video-tape that had been made of the program. The victim stated facts concerning several law enforcement agencies and recent crime occurrences. She thus stated to the effect that Channel 40 News now presents live and in color an attempted suicide at this point causes the weapon to her hand, fires it, the rifle slumps over...
CASE #74-15120

The desk & desk starters fell to the floor. The tape ends here. Bob Peterson was present during the viewing of the tape but he remained outside of the viewing area. Peterson admitted a Herald Tribune newswoman to the building & at the time of viewing the tape the newswoman was noticed by Deputy Fairbanks to be standing outside of the viewing room. Taking pictures through the door window. He then left the area & went to an upstairs office. This writer advised Deputy Fairbanks to bring that subject back to speak with this writer & Lt. Palmer (3526). The subject stated he only wanted a picture of the law officer in the viewing room. However, this writer felt he could have seen enough to interfere with this Dept. investigation of this case. Lt. Palmer then proceeded to ask the subject for the film. He gave Lt. Palmer the film. Deceptively, Lt. Palmer has his film. The video tape is sealed up to Deputy Fairman to be placed into evidence along with the weapon & shells. The owner of WBT requested to not Palmer that he preferred no one (more media) be permitted into...
The building and that he und the station personnel would make up a news release for the press.

Miss Chubbuck remains in serious condition at the time of this writing. Deputy Pike was advised by the hospital that the victim had shot herself just behind the right ear and the bullet exited at the top right portion of her head.
CASE # 74-15120

P.T.# 3190

07-17-74

requested to proceed to the scene of an attempted suicide. The

scene was at the WXLT studios on 5725 Lawton Drive. Upon Arrival at

the scene, Deputy Lovern and Writer were requested to take photographs of the scene and collect all evidence involving the case. Writer photographed the scene, while Dep. Lovern collected all essential evidence.

A list of items taken is attached to the report, and the property was transported back to the Sheriff's Office and turned over to the Property Control Officer for storage.

(BIUE OFFENSE SUPPLEMENT FORM

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED)

SSO 73-25

Signature of Investigating Officer
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**TOTAL**

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all property taken from my possession and that I have received a copy of this receipt.

**Signature**

**Received By**

**Reason**

**Date and Time Received**

**Division**

**Impeaching Officer**

**Reason**

**Date and Time Received**
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Sarasota County Sheriff's Department

INVESTIGATION AT: Sarasota County, Fla.

DATE THIS REPORT: 7-16-74

PERIOD COVERED BY INVESTIGATION: 7-15-74 thru 7-16-74

TITLE: MISS CHRIS CHUBBICK

7312 Point of Rocks Circle
Sarasota, Florida

Occurred at WXLT-TV, Clark Road, Sarasota, Fla.

CLASSIFICATION: Crime Against Person

FILE: #74-15120

SYNOPSIS:

At approximately 1005 hours on 7-15-74, Writer was asked to proceed to WXLT-TV located on Clark Road in Sarasota in reference to a suicide attempt.

Upon arrival, I observed in the Studio several uniform personnel talking with employees of the Station. In viewing the area where the shooting occurred, Writer observed a large blood stain on the carpet directly behind the chair in which the victim... Miss Chris Chubbick... was seated. In addition, there was a small amount of blood on the desk. Under the desk area was a basket type purse with a gun case, unzipped, lying on top. All the furniture - which was moved by the South Trail Ambulance Unit - was moved back into place by Writer. The ID Section was called by Writer to photograph the scene as it was at the time of the shooting.

Writer and other uniform personnel then viewed a tape made of the live TV broadcast showing the victim... Chris Chubbuck...
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
Sarasota County Sheriff's Department

INVESTIGATION AT: Sarasota County, Fla.
DATE THIS REPORT: 7-16-74
PERIOD COVERED BY INVESTIGATION: 7-15-74 thru 7-16-74

TITLE: MISS CHRIS CHUBBUCK
7322 Point of Rocks Circle
Sarasota, Florida

Occurred at WXLT-TV, Clark Road, Sarasota, Fla.

CLASSIFICATION: Crime Against Person
FILE: #74-15120

SYNOPSIS:

-2-

shooting herself in the right side of the head with a 38 cal. Smith & Wesson snub nose. The weapon was loaded with wad cutters (six), and one spent shell casing was found.

Detectives Tuttle and Walter made taped interviews with all WXLT employees that were present in the Studio at the time of the shooting (see statements).

All evidence in the Case was taken by Deputies Lovern and Whitehead and placed into property.

An autopsy will be performed by Dr. White on 7-16-74 at the Sarasota Memorial Hospital. This Case will be cleared exceptionally upon results of autopsy.

REPORT MADE BY:
SGT. EDDIE PALMER

REPORT APPROVED BY:
JIM HARDCASTLE
SHERIFF OF SARASOTA COUNTY
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

COPYIES TO:
Capt. Ellis Denham

FILE NO:

DEPUTY SHERIFF
SARASOTA COUNTY
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
Sarasota County Sheriff's Department

INVESTIGATION AT: Sarasota County, Fla.
DATE THIS REPORT: 7-16-74
PERIOD COVERED BY INVESTIGATION: 7-15-74 thru 7-16-74

TITLE:
MISS CHRIS CHUBBUCK
7132 Point of Rocks Circle
Sarasota, Florida
Occurred at WXLT-TV, Clark Road, Sarasota, Fla.

CLASSIFICATION:
Crime Against Person

FILE: #74-15120

SYNOPSIS:

7-15-74 . . . Monday at 1000 hours

Sgt. Palmer and Writer arrived at the scene of a suicide attempt occurring at WXLT-TV Studio where Christine Chubbuck - white female, 29 years of age, of 7132 Point of Rocks Circle in Sarasota - was the victim.

Upon arrival, Writer observed five deputies at the scene and various personnel from WXLT in the area.

The deputies present were Kennedy, Fairbanks, and Berry . . . as well as Corporal Pike, Sgt. Heine, and Lt. Stimson.

Writer searched victim's purse for any suicide note or any other items of interest but nothing was found. In the interim, Detective Tuttle obtained various statements from the employees of WXLT.

Writer spoke with a Linda "Shay" Taylor - white female, 28 years of age, of 942 LaCasta Circle - who advised she was not only a

COPIES TO:
Capt. Ellis Denham

REPORT MADE BY:
Det. Angelina Walter

REPORT APPROVED BY:
Sgt. Ed Palmer

FILE NO:

DEPUTY SHERIFF
SARASOTA COUNTY
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

JIM HARDCASTLE
SHERIFF OF SARASOTA COUNTY
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
Sarasota County Sheriff's Department

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<td>FILE: #74-15120</td>
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SYNOPSIS:

-2-

coworker of the victim; but also a friend. She stated that Chris had had numerous problems involving a personal matter. Miss Taylor stressed that Chris had been seeing a female psychiatrist in Bradenton for some time... and felt that seeing and talking to the doctor had helped her somewhat. Miss Taylor advised that Chris had been quite upset over numerous sexual problems - her main problem being that she was a 29-year-old virgin. She further stated that Chris was a very unstable person; even though she engaged in various social and sport functions. Chris apparently tried to keep herself occupied with many activities to relieve her frustrations.

In addition, Writer searched victim's car for any clues as to her reason for committing suicide, but results were negative.
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
Sarasota County Sheriff's Department

INVESTIGATION AT: Sarasota County, Fla.
DATE THIS REPORT: 7-16-74
PERIOD COVERED BY INVESTIGATION: 7-15-74 thru 7-16-74

TITLE: MISS CHRIS CHUBBUCK
7132 Point of Rocks Circle
Sarasota, Florida

Occurred at WXLT-TV, Clark Road, Sarasota, Fla.

FILE: #74-15120

This writer received a call on this date, 7-15-74, from
Sgt. Eddie Palmer to assist with the investigation of an attempted
suicide occurring at the Studio of WXLT-TV on Clark Road in Sarasota.

Upon arrival at the crime scene, the victim ... a Miss Chris
Chubbuck ... had been transported to the Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

In addition, writer viewed a videotape of the program that had
been conducted by Miss Chubbuck ... as well as the deputies dispatched
to the scene.

I also obtained taped statements from employees of WXLT-TV
that were present during the time of the shooting. The individuals in-
olved were Linda Taylor, Denver Baker, Jack Beasley, Joan Reid,
Bill WenSteenburgh, Linford Richard, and Ron Smith. Copies of these
statements are attached.

COPY TO: Capt. Ellis Denham
REPORT MADE BY: Det. Kenneth Tuttle
REPORT APPROVED BY: Sgt. Ed Palmer

FILE NO:

DEPUTY SHERIFF SARASOTA COUNTY SARASOTA, FLORIDA
JIM HARDCASTLE SHERIFF OF SARASOTA COUNTY SARASOTA, FLORIDA
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
Sarasota County Sheriff's Department

INVESTIGATION AT:  
Sarasota County, Fla.

DATE THIS REPORT:  
7-16-74

PERIOD COVERED BY INVESTIGATION:  
7-15-74 thru 7-16-74

TITLE:  
MISS CHRIS CHUBBICK
7132 Point of Rocks Circle
Sarasota, Florida

Occurred at WXLT-TV, Clark Road, Sarasota, Fla.

CLASSIFICATION:  
Crime Against Person

FILE:  
#74-15120

SYNOPSIS:

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Bill VonSteenburgh, Linford Richard, and Ron Smith. Copies of these
statements are attached.
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 

Page 1 of Pages

I, Chris Chubbuck, W/F, 29, reside at 7132 Point of Rocks Circle, Sarasota, Florida, do hereby make the following voluntary statement to WXLT TV Viewers, and who have/have identified themselves/himself to me as Deputy Sheriff(s) of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department. I make this statement without having received any reward, nor have I been made an offer of reward for making this statement. No threats, force or promise have been made to induce me to make this statement.

(This is a tape of the taping of the News Program at the WXLT TV set that Miss Chubbuck was conducting. Following her news report are recorded Miss Chubbuck's last words, announcing her own suicide to follow which thereafter took place on the TV set.)

... primarily and substantially through those subscri... Statistics.
This weekend, being typical of the recent rash of violence or 1 man stabbed, another assaulted and a third shot and wounded. Sarasota Police report the firing of an 18 year old, a man by the name of in the parking lot of Tavern on 27th St. had an apparent stab wound in the chest which, according to witnesses was inflicted by James Whitworth during the attack.
Police charged Whitworth with Aggravated Assault. Whitworth is in satisfactory condition in Sarasota Memorial Hospital. The second attempted Armed Robbery in a week has involved law enforcement officers from both Sarasota and Man... Manatee Counties. Last week, teenage gunmen held up the Highway Bar and after a shoot-out and high-speed auto wheel chase, held hostage and finally were apprehended by

Signature: Witnessed by:
Time completed: Witnessed by:
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 

Page 2 of ______ Pages

STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

Sarasota Sheriff's deputies. Early Sunday morning, at the Beef and Bottle Restaurant at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport on U.S. 41, from an attempted Armed Robbery and shooting.

reported newswoman Bob Peterson was on the scene shortly after it began and he filed this report. I'm sorry for those of you who saw late-night NewsWatch last night. We did have a film report and a commentary by Bob Peterson. Unfortunately, we had technical difficulties and cannot bring it for you now however. Watch the NewsWatch tonight at 5:30 and you will have that story for you then. As for this morning, Foster, Ray Foster who was shot in that incident is in satisfactory condition in Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

"In keeping with the WXLT practice of presenting the most immediate and complete reports of local news, TV 40 presents what is believed to be a television first. In living color, an exclusive coverage of an attempted suicide. (Gun fired at this point).

________________________
Signature: __________________________

Witnessed by: ______________________

Time completed ___________________
Witnessed by: ______________________

Witnessed by: ______________________

Witnessed by: ______________________
WITNESS STATEMENT

Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 1115 hours

1. Linford C. Richard reside at 930 North Conrad Avenue
   Sarasota, Florida do hereby make the following voluntary statement to Det. Kenneth Tuttle and
   who have / has identified themselves / himself to me as Deputy Sheriff(s) of the Sarasota County Sheriff's
   Department. I make this statement without having received any reward, nor have I been made an
   offer of reward for making this statement. No threats, force or promise have been made to induce me to
   make this statement.

Q- State your name and address, please.
A- Name is Linford C. Richard, nickname "Lynn" -- 930 North Conrad Street
   or Avenue here in Sarasota.

Q- On the morning of July 15th, were you so employed at WXLT TV?
A- Yes, I'm the Productions Operations Manager at the Station.

Q- This date, were you taping a program?
A- I was directing the program, "Sun Coast Digest," which ah, Chris is
   the host.

Q- Could you state what happened or what you knew about the incident that
   occurred?
A- Ah, the only thing that I know different that occurred was on this
   particular morning, that she had initiated a new segment from what
   I gather of her program which was "News," and I thought it a little
   unusual but what the heck? Go along with it.

Q- Did she seem upset at the time?
A- Not at the time that I talked with her before the show.

Q- Has Chris ever stated that she was going to attempt suicide or ah...

Signature: ___________________________________________ Witnessed by:____________________
Time completed ____________________________ Witnessed by: _______________________________
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 1115 hours
Page 2 of 3 Pages

STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

Q- any of her friends had attempted suicide in the past or did she seem like the type that would?
A- Not to me.

Q- During the broadcast of the program, did you see anything that seemed to be unusual?
A- Ah, no-- She seemed to me, to be nervous.

Q- More so than usual?
A- Well, I gathered that it was because normally her show is an "ad lib" type of show and I gathered from oh, since she was reading the news and reading the script that, that was what was causing her to be nervous. Ah, she read a "lead-in" to a piece of news film and ah, we had some technical problems in the control room that eliminated this--made it impossible, let me say, -- to run that piece of news film and so ah, during the course of action, we came back to her ah-- advising her that we were having technical problems and then, she went on with the news. Ah, the thing that she did as far as the shooting or whatever you want to call it, I had no script to-- the rest of the show was script-- ah, I just assumed that she was ad-libbing from then on, until the incident happened. But, I thought at that time that it was a joke, a very bad joke.

Signature: ___________________________ Witnessed by: ___________________________
Time completed _________________________ Witnessed by: _______________________
Witnessed by: _________________________ Witnessed by: _______________________

Autopsyfiles.org - Christine Chubbuck Police Reports and Death Investigation
Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 1115 hours
Page 3 of 3 Pages

STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

Q- At any time did you see any type of firearm?
A- No.

Q- In the building?
A- No.

Q- Have you ever seen Chris with a firearm in the past?
A- No.

Q- Do you have anything else you'd like to add to this statement?
A- Ah, right at the moment, no.

Q- End of statement. 1119 hours.

Signature: ____________________________  Witnessed by: ____________________________
Time completed ______________________  Witnessed by: ____________________________
Witnessed by: ________________________  Witnessed by: ____________________________
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 1103 hours
Page 1 of 3 Pages

I, Denver Baker, reside at 2025 Cass Way, Sarasota, Florida, do hereby make the following voluntary statement to Det. Kenneth Tuttle and who have identified themselves/himself to me as Deputy Sheriff(s) of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department. I make this statement without having received any reward, nor have I been made an offer of reward for making this statement. No threats, force or promise have been made to induce me to make this statement.

Q.- State your name and home address please?

Q.- Mr. Baker, are you employed at WXLT TV?
A.- Yes, I am, Creative Director. I suppose would be a title and ak, this particular morning, I was running audio in the ak, control room.

Q.- Mr. Baker, were you taping a program, this morning?
A.- Well, I didn't know it was being taped at the time, but it was on tape ak. I was just running audio, controlling the audio that goes out over the air, and of course, watching the show on the monitor.

Q.- Ah, could you state what happened during the programming?
A.- Well, she ak, we had talked about this new segment last week. She was going to start this morning and ak, she just started the news--read through the news and we had some difficulty on one of the films and after that, she came back and ak, did what you saw on the tape.

Q.- Did you have a conversation this morning with Mrs. Chubbuck?
A.- No, not too much other than the show itself, you know and ak, what we were going to do and so on, you know and the lighting situation.

Signature: Witnessed by:

Time completed: Witnessed by:
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Case No.: 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 11:03 hours
Page 2 of 3 Pages

STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

A- and so on.

Q- Did she seem upset with you or with anything around WMLT TV?

A- Not too much more than usual ak... she had this new segment that she had to get typed and she said she couldn't help me set it on the show up because ak, she had to do some typing, gather some news, you know, and ak, that was about all there was this morning.

Q- Have you heard ak, Miss Chubbuck say that she would attempt suicide or anything in this manner?

A- Yes, I did about a week and a half ago, two weeks ago. She said, "Wouldn't it be funny if somebody committed suicide on the air?" And ak, she said, "That would really shake everybody up, be a big story," or something like that. And ak, other than that, no, I talked to her this weekend ak-- she looked like she was planning ahead. Did a commercial with her last week which she wanted to use in her resume's, so it looked like she was planning ahead for that, and other than that.

Q- Do you have anything else you would like to add to this statement that may be helpful?

A- Well, just other than what Shy said ak, she did have some problems.

Signature: Witnessed by: 
Time completed: Witnessed by: 
Witnessed by:
A- which we'd talked about at different times, nothing ok, too deep.

Q- End of statement, 1105 hours.
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 11:30 A.M.

Page 1 of 3 Pages

1. Robert W. Smith reside at 1063 Patterson Drive
   Sarasota, Florida

I hereby make the following voluntary statement

who have identified themselves to me as Deputy Sheriff(s) of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department. I make this statement without having received any reward, nor have I been made an offer of reward for making this statement. No threats, force or promise have been made to induce me to make this statement.

Q- State your name and home address please.
A- Robert W. Smith, 1063 Patterson Drive, Sarasota.

Q- Mr. Smith, are you employed at WXLT TV?
A- Yes, I am.

Q- On the morning of July the 15th, 1974, were you employed at WXLT TV?
A- Yes, I was.

Q- Were you working at the station that morning?
A- No.

Q- Are you personal friends with Chris Chubbuck?
A- Yes, I'd say so.

Q- When was the last time that you saw Chris Chubbuck?
A- Hmm, Friday when she went home about 6:30 or so-- 7 o'clock, something like that.

Q- Did you often have conversations with Miss Chubbuck?
A- Yes, I did.

Q- Had you ever talked with her about committing suicide or heard her state to you that she was thinking about committing suicide?

Signature: ___________________________   Witnessed by: ___________________________

Time completed _________________   Witnessed by: ___________________________
STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

A - Yes, ah, she told me the way that she was going to do it, but I didn't take it seriously.

Q - About how long ago or what date was this that ah...

A - Last Monday.

Q - Did you ever see her with the gun?

A - No, I didn't.

Q - But she stated to you that she owned a gun?

A - Told me that she fired a gun that Saturday, the Saturday before last Monday.

Q - Where did she say she bought the gun?

A - I'm not quite sure -- I think it was the Bullet Hole.

Q - Ah, how did she state she was going to commit suicide?

A - Well, first she told me that she had bought this gun and I said, ahh, "That can only get you in trouble." sort of joking with her, but you know, but then, I really believed that and then, she said, "Well, I did this, because I have this really neat idea that you know, one day I might you know it'd be nice if I, you know, took the gun out and blew myself away." And then, she started laughing after that and I told her that's really insane, crazy idea ah - you know, like crazy. She used to come up with pretty weird ideas, but I.
STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

A- thought this was about the weirdest, you know. I thought it was also one of her crazy ideas and I tried to change the subject, real quickly, but I didn't take it seriously.

Q- In your opinion, did Miss Chubbuck have any personal problems?

A- Well, I think she felt extremely lonely and you know, she'd get upset over things, that, I think, wouldn't get other people upset over.

Q- Do you have any other information you'd like to add to this statement?

A- Ahmm, no, not just that I'm unbelievably surprised.

Q- End of statement, 1125 hours.
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 1900 hours
Page 1 of 3 Pages

1, Linda "Shay" Taylor reside at 942 LaCosta Circle, Apt. #6 Sarasota, Florida do hereby make the following voluntary statement to Det. Kenneth Tuttle and who have / has identified themselves / himself to me as Deputy Sheriff (s) of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department. I make this statement without having received any reward, nor have I been made an offer of reward for making this statement. No threats, force or promise have been made to induce me to make this statement.

Q- State your name and your present address please?
A- My name is Linda E. Taylor. My friend's call me "Shay" and I live at 942 LaCosta Circle, Apt. #6, in Sarasota.

Q- Mrs. Taylor, are you employed at WXLT TV?
A- Yes, I've been here since September.

Q- On July the 15th, were you so employed at WXLT TV?
A- I was.

Q- What is your function at WXLT TV?
A- I assist June Reid in traffic and I run cameras and do little things, a lot of other things.

Q- On the morning of July 15th, were you participating in a show at WXLT TV?
A- Yes I was, running camera.

Q- Ah, could you tell me during the show time, ah, what occurred that you had information on?
A- Well, my camera was locked into the two guests who were on the set, so I stood aside to watch Chris as she was doing the news part of.

Signature: ____________________________ Witnessed by: ____________________________

Time completed ____________________________ Witnessed by: ____________________________
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Case No: 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 1100 hours
Page 2 of 3 Pages

STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

A- the news show.

Q- Did Chris seem upset or nervous to you?

A- She looked to me, very nervous.

Q- Did you have a conversation before the program began?

A- No. I got down there about the same time Jean did. I, I believe it was about the same time. She seemed nervous to me, but then, Chris always seems nervous when she reads on camera, but I did notice that she... ah... was groping for air, a couple of times.

Q- Did you at any time, see her gun or hear Chris talking of suicidal attempts?

A- She's talked to me about suicidal tendencies before but never attempts.

Q- About how long ago did she talk to you about this?

A- Ah... about 3 weeks ago.

Q- Do you have any knowledge as far as if she's financially... ok, ah....

Have she been upset over any personal problems or ah, as far as relation with anyone else?

A- She's had a problem that we talked about about 3 weeks ago that ah, she hoped to resolve soon, but wasn't resolved. It was kind of a deep personal problem that she's always had. Maybe, I... I don't know her not solving that problem made her feel worse or not. It was a sexual problem.

Signature: ___________________________ Witnessed by: ___________________________

Time completed ___________________________ Witnessed by: ___________________________

Witnessed by: ___________________________ Witnessed by: ___________________________
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 11:00 hours
Page 3 of 3 Pages

STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

Q- Do you have anything else that you'd like to add to this statement? to-- as far as what took place on the morning of July the 15th?

A- No, nothing that would help, no-- just rambling.

Q- Thank you. End of statement. 11:00 hours.

Signature: ____________________________  Witnessed by: ____________________________

Time completed ____________________________  Witnessed by: ____________________________

Witnessed by: ____________________________  Witnessed by: ____________________________
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Case No. 74-15120
Date: 7-15-74
Time: 1050 hours
Page 1 of 3 Pages

1. Jean Reid reside at 4077 McEachen Boulevard

Sarasota, Florida do hereby make the following voluntary statement

to Det. Kenneth Tuttle and

who have / has identified themselves / himself to me as Deputy Sheriffs1 of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department. I make this statement without having received any reward, nor have I been made an offer of reward for making this statement. No threats, force or promise have been made to induce me to make this statement.

Q- (This will be a statement taken from an employee at WXLT TV on Lampton Drive, Sarasota, Florida). State your correct name and your correct home address please. We.

A- My name is Mrs. Frank Reid, Jean Reid, 4077 McEachen Boulevard, here in Sarasota. My title is Traffic Manager here at WXLT.

Q- Mrs. Reid, on July the 15th, were you so employed at WXLT TV?

A- Yes and in conjunction with my regular duties, I also run a camera on the live show that we have here in the morning, Sun Coast Digest from 9:30 to 10. That particular morning, this morning, July 15th, I was down in the studio about 9:25 which is normal procedure. We do that to get set-up for the show.

Q- During the taping of the program, you stated that you were operating the camera, did you observe some unusual actions or something you'd like to discuss with us?

A- Ah, no, not really, ah -- they were inaugurating that day, a five minute news segment which was unusual. We usually have the cameras on her set and the gun with her theme song and went right into

Signature: Witnessed by:

Time completed Witnessed by:
STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

A- interviews. At this time, she was on the news set and I had to use one camera--happened I was on that camera with a close-up of her head and shoulders and the key thing that we have in order to run news pictures and things of that nature. So that morning, this morning, she did not smile and say hello, but I didn't think too much of that actually, because I realized it was a new thing and I knew Chris did not like reading. She liked to interview. She didn't like reading news, so I felt she was a little "up-tight" about her new program.

Q- Did you have a conversation before she went on the air with Chris?

A- No, I didn't. I talked to her during the show when she attempted to have a film run of the hold-up, a special feature thing we have here and technically, it couldn't be run, so I took my head set off and whispered to her, "We're having technical problems," and that was a very normal kind of thing, and her reaction was, "Oh!" and then when we went back on, she handled it very nicely and in a way, that I wouldn't think somebody ah, who was anticipating this tragic event, wouldn't be able to have thought that quickly and she covered it up very very well saying, "Well, we're sorry about this and wait and you'll see it on the 5:30 News." So very frankly, there was no mani-
STATEMENT CONTINUATION:

A- festation in my view that this girl honestly thought she was going to do this, and if she did, it was going to be kind of a trick, kind of a shock trick.

Q- Has Miss Chubbuck ah ever mentioned suicide to you before?

A- No.

Q- Do you know of anyone that she's ever talked to about committing suicide or anything in the past?

A- No.

Q- Do you have anything else that you'd like to add to this statement?

A- Only the fact that I thought Chris was extremely happy here. I didn't know her quite well and she had told me many many times that she was -- had felt she had found herself. She was very much enjoyed her show ahm, loved meeting the people, the public and this was exactly what she wanted to do in life. She had a -- loose her temper every now and then, but everybody does in this business so nothing, nothing that ah, would ah, give you any preview of something like this.

Q- Thank you very much. End of statement. 1055 hours.

Signature: Witnessed by:

Time completed Witnessed by:

Witnessed by:
Autopsyfiles.org - Christine Chubbuck Police Reports and Death Investigation

### Report of Investigation by Medical Examiner

**Decedent:** Christine Chubbuck  
**Age:** 29  
**Sex:** Female  
**Race:** White  
**Address:** 7132 Ft. of Rocks Cr., Sarasota, Fla.  
**Address:** Sarasota Memorial Hospital

#### Type of Death:
- In prison [ ]  
- Suspicous [ ]

#### Last Seen Alive:
- Date: 7/15/74  
- Time: 9:25 AM

#### Reporting:
- Location: WILY-IV Channel 40, Sarasota, Fla.
- Reporting: Sarasota Memorial Hospital Intensive Care Unit

#### Viewed by Medical Examiner:
- Sarasota Memorial Hospital Morgue

#### Description of Boot:
- Clothed [ ] Unclothed [ ]
- Partly clothed [ ]
- Beard [ ] Mustache [ ]
- Circumcised [ ]

#### Fatal Wounds:
- Type: Gunshot  
- Size: 30-caliber

#### Probable Cause of Death:
- Cerebral Edema and Intracranial Meninges Due to Gunshot Wound of Head (Self-Inflicted)

#### Disposition of Case:
1. Not a medical examiner case
2. Accident
3. Suicide
4. Homicide

I hereby declare that after receiving notice of the death described herein, I took charge of the body and made inquiries regarding the cause of death in accordance with HB 2129, date of EL 1970, and that the information contained herein regarding such death is true and correct to the best knowledge and belief.

**Date:** July 15, 1974  
**City or County of Appointment:** Sarasota

### Notes:
- Number of deaths:  
- Internal:  
- External:  
- Natural:  
- Unknown:  
- Pending:  

**Autopsy Protocol:**
- See autopsy protocol
NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH:

On July 15 at approximately 9:25 A.M., while giving a news report on WXTL-TV Channel 40, the defendant announced to her viewing audience that they were about to witness what was believed to be a television first—an exclusive coverage of an attempted suicide. At this time she pulled out a .38 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver which she had apparently recently purchased and shot herself in the head. She was taken via South Trail Ambulance to Sarasota Memorial Hospital Emergency Room, arriving at 9:37 A.M. and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit under the care of Doctor W.E. Wallace. She expired approximately 14 hours later, pronounced dead at 11:10 P.M. by Dr. Goldstein. Investigation revealed that Miss Chubbuck had been extremely despondent because of personal problems and had talked of suicide on many occasions.
MEDICAL EXAMINER

Name of Deceased: Chubbuck, Christine
Place of Autopsy: Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Date of Autopsy: 7-16-74
Autopsy No.: A-74-203

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The body is that of a thin, well-developed, well-nourished white female. The hair on the right posterior aspect of the head is matted together by blood and brain tissue. When cleared away, a round, 1.8 cm. defect is present in the parietal area 4 cm. above the pins of the ear. The scalp about the wound is edematous. On the left side of the head in the parieto-occipital area is another wound which represents the exit site of a missile. This is slightly above and posterior in location to the wound on the right. On compressing the scalp, brain tissue exudes from the wound like toothpaste from a tube. The eyes bilaterally show hemorrhage formation and the nose is swollen from the bridge to the tip. The neck, chest, breasts, abdomen, and upper and lower extremities are normal, except for a 13 cm. transverse suprapubic scar.

BODY CAVITIES: The body is opened by a standard Y-incision and the breast plate removed. The pleural cavities bilaterally are unremarkable. The pericardial sac is normal. The contents of the abdominal cavity are unremarkable.

HEART: The heart weighs 250 grams and is entirely normal in all respects except for mild atherosclerotic plaquing of the left anterior descending coronary artery and mitral valve.

DIAGNOSIS: Coronary atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, mild.

LUNGS: The left lung weighs 500 grams, the right lung 650 grams. The pulmonary arteries are free of thromboemboli bilaterally. The bronchi are filled with hemorrhagic mucus. A bullous bleb is present in the right apex. The external appearance of the lungs otherwise is normal. Sectioning shows mild to moderate changes of pulmonary congestion and edema.

DIAGNOSES: 1. Bullous lesion, right apex.
2. Hemorrhagic mucus, bronchi, bilaterally.
3. Congestion and edema, mild to moderate.

ESOPHAGUS, STOMACH, DUODENUM & PANCREAS: The stomach is filled with contents of a partially digested meal and admixed with blood. The remainder of the specimen is entirely normal in appearance.

DIAGNOSIS: Normal organ block except for swallowed blood mixed with partially digested meal.

LIVER: This weighs 1700 grams. The attached gall bladder is normal in appearance. The hepatic capsule is tan in color and smooth in appearance. Sectioning shows the liver to be normal with changes of acute congestion.

DIAGNOSIS: Acute congestion.

INTESTINAL TRACT: This is examined and found to be normal.

DIAGNOSIS: Normal bowel.

KIDNEYS: The left kidney weighs 170 grams, the right kidney 150 grams.
Chubbuck, Christine A-74-203

The renal capsules strip with ease bilaterally. Sectioning shows the parenchyma to be entirely normal in appearance.

DIAGNOSIS: Normal kidneys.

URINARY BLADDER: DIAGNOSIS: Normal bladder.

FEMALE GENITALIA: The vagina is pink with a wrinkled mucosa. The cervix is pink with no evidence of ulcerations or erosion. The uterus is normal in appearance. The fallopian tubes bilaterally are normal. The left ovary is missing having been surgically removed. The right ovary is present and enlarged measuring 7 x 3 x 2 cm. The endocervical and endometrial canals are normal. The endometrium is flattened and tan in color. Sectioning the ovary shows mild cystic changes but an otherwise normal appearance. This appears to be most representative of compensatory hypertrophy resulting after the removal of the left ovary.

DIAGNOSES: 1. Compensatory hypertrophy, right ovary.
   2. Status post-op left oophorectomy.

ADRENA GLANDS: These are examined and are found to be normal bilaterally.

DIAGNOSIS: Normal adrenal glands.

SPLERN: This weighs 70 grams and is normal in appearance.

DIAGNOSIS: Normal spleen.

HEAD & BRAIN: The external wounds have been described under General Description. The x-rays taken on admission to the hospital have been studied and reveal fragments of metal within the brain substance and a large metallic fragment representing the bullet adjacent to the exit wound and lodged within the soft tissue of the scalp. As the calvarium is removed, this bullet is found and is seen to consist of a portion of metal measuring 1.5 cm. x 1 cm. x 1 cm. The anterior portion of the bullet is moderately deformed. The entrance wound of the bullet into the bone of the right side of the skull is essentially unchanged from the original description. The exit wound in the left parieto-occipital area is 2 cm. in diameter with bone fragments hanging from the exit of the wound and lodged within the scalp. Examination of the subcutaneous tissue of the scalp reveals massive bilateral hemorrhage. A 9 cm. skull fracture is present in the calvarium extending from the entrance wound over the surface of the skull to the midline suture in the occipito-parietal area. A small dural hematoma is present on the right surface of the brain about the area of the entrance wound. A large epidural clot is present in the area of the exit wound. As the brain is removed, from the skull, 150 cc. of clot material present epidurally and subdurally is found in the occipital region. The base of the skull reveals an elongate fracture extending from the left anterior fossa through the middle fossa over the petrous bone and into the posterior fossa. A second fracture is present in the occiput extending from the right to the left side.
C hubbuck, Christine  A-74-203

The brain weighs 1350 grams. Marked degeneration of cerebral substance is present in the area of the parieto-occipital lobe on the right representing the entrance wound. Palpation of the wound reveals bone fragments deep within the cerebral substance. The bullet exited the right parieto-occipital region just above the cerebellum and entered the left cerebral hemisphere in a similar location. The exit wound is in the dorsal aspect of the left parieto-occipital hemisphere, slightly posterior to the entrance wound. Examination of the brain stem shows edema of the cerebellar peduncles and brain stem. Edema of the cerebral hemispheres bilaterally is also present. Sectioning the brain only further elucidates the bullet tract. Bone and brain from the area of the entrance wound of the bullet are stained with black pigment consistent with powder burns from a close range wound. Sectioning the cerebellum and brain stem reveals edema of the pons and clotted blood within the fourth ventricle.

DIAGNOSES: 1. Penetrating bullet wound of the brain entering in the right parieto-occipital area just above and behind the right ear and exiting in the left parieto-occipital area in a slightly dorsal and posterior location to the entrance wound.
Associated injuries:

1. Parieto-occipital skull fracture of calvarium.
2. Extensive basilar skull fracture, left anterior middle and posterior cerebral fossae and occipital skull fracture extending from the right to the left posterior fossae above the transverse sinus.
3. Left epidural and subdural hematomas.
4. Cerebral edema.
5. Edema of the cerebellar peduncles and brain stem.
6. Haemorrhage subcutaneous hematomas, skin of scalp.
7. Traumatic laceration of cerebral tissue, right and left parieto-occipital areas.
8. Bullet, subcutaneous tissue, left side of head.

MICROSCOPIC AUTOPSY

HEART: No pathologic diagnosis.
CORONARY ARTERIES: Mild early atherosomatic changes.
LUNGS: Pulmonary edema and congestion.
LIVER: Normal histologic appearance.
PANCREAS: Normal histologic appearance.
STOMACH: Normal appearing gastric mucosa.
KIDNEYS: Normal histologic appearance.
Chubbuck, Christine A-74-203

GENITALIA: Proliferative endometrium and normal myometrium and histologically normal appearing ovarian tissue.

BRAIN: Sections submitted from the anterior portion of the cerebral hemispheres and the area of the cerebellar peduncles and medulla are normal except for edema. Sections from the area of bullet tract show distortion of neural tissue with hemorrhage, congestion, and early necrosis of neural tissue. No evidence of an inflammatory reaction is seen.

FINAL ANATOMIC DIAGNOSES:
1. Penetrating bullet wound of the brain entering in the right parieto-occipital area above and behind the right ear and exiting in the left parieto-occipital area in a slightly dorsal and posterior location to the area of entrance wound.
   Associated injuries:
   1. Edema of the cerebral hemispheres bilaterally, cerebellar peduncles and brain stem.
   2. Left epidural and subdural hematomas.
   3. Traumatic laceration of cerebral tissue, right and left parieto-occipital areas.
   4. Skull fractures:
      A. Basilar skull fracture extending from the left anterior cerebral fossa through the middle fossa to the posterior cerebral fossa.
      B. Fracture of the calvarium from point of entrance wound to the posterior aspect of the sagittal suture.
      C. Fracture of occiput from the right side to the left side above the transverse sinus.
   5. .38 caliber distorted bullet, subcutaneous tissue, left side of head.

2. Pulmonary congestion and edema, mild to moderate.
4. Acute hepatic congestion.
5. Status post-op left oophorectomy with compensatory hypertrophy of the right ovary.

E.L. Kemstock, M.D./15